Confederate States of America

A Register of Its Records in the Library of Congress

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff Revised and expanded by Patrick Kerwin with the assistance of Ahmed-Jahmal Johnson



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

2003

Contact information: http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/mss/address.html

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Collection Summary

Title: Records of the Confederate States of America

Span Dates: 1854-1889 **Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1861-1865)

ID No.: MSS16550

Creator: Confederate States of America

Extent: 18,500 items; 124 containers plus 2 oversize; 28 linear feet; 71 microfilm reels

Language: Collection material in English

Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Abstract: Correspondence, proclamations, messages of the president, court cases, minute books, docket books, customs records, financial records, letterbooks, orders, reports, and other records of the Confederate Department of Justice, Department of State, Department of the Treasury, Post Office Department, Navy Department, and War Department. Includes Confederate constitutional documents and the James Wolcott Wadsworth collection of diplomatic correspondence

and letters of Raphael Semmes.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Names:

Confederate States of America

Baker, Bolling--Correspondence.

Beauregard, G. T. (Gustave Toutant), 1818-1893--Correspondence

Benjamin, J. P. (Judah Philip), 1811-1884--Correspondence

Clay, C. C. (Clement Claiborne), 1816-1882--Correspondence

Conger, Lewis--Correspondence

Davis, Jefferson, 1808-1889

Davis, Jefferson, 1808-1889--Correspondence

DeLeon, Edwin, 1828-1891--Correspondence

Guirot, Anthony J.--Correspondence

Helm, Charles J.--Correspondence

Heyliger, Lewis--Correspondence

Hotze, Henry, 1833-1887--Correspondence

Lamar, L. Q. C. (Lucius Quintus Cincinnatus), 1825-1893--Correspondence

Mann, A. Dudley (Ambrose Dudley), 1801-1889--Correspondence

Mason, J. M. (James Murray), 1798-1871--Correspondence

Memminger, C. G. (Christopher Gustavus), 1803-1888--Correspondence

Pickett, John T. (John Thomas), 1822-1884--Correspondence

Quintero, John A.--Correspondence

Reagan, John H. (John Henninger), 1818-1905--Correspondence

Semmes, Raphael, 1809-1877--Correspondence

Slidell, John, 1793-1871--Correspondence

Stephens, Alexander Hamilton, 1812-1883--Correspondence

Thompson, Jacob, 1810-1885--Correspondence

Trescott, William Henry, b. 1822--Correspondence

Walker, Leroy Pope, 1817-1884--Correspondence

Yancey, William Lowndes, 1814-1863--Correspondence

Confederate States of America. Army. Army of Tennessee--Surgeons

Confederate States of America. Congress

Confederate States of America. Constitution

Wadsworth, James Wolcott, 1846-1926. James Wolcott Wadsworth collection

Confederate States of America. Dept. of Justice. Records of the Confederate States of America. Dept. of Justice

Confederate States of America. Dept. of State. Records of the Confederate States of America. Dept. of State

Confederate States of America. Dept. of the Treasury. Records of the Confederate States of America. Dept. of the Treasury Confederate States of America. Navy. Records of the Confederate States of America. Navy. Confederate States of America. Post-Office Dept. Records of the Confederate States of America. Post-Office Dept. Confederate States of America. War Dept. Records of the Confederate States of America. War Dept.

Subjects:

Executive departments--Confederate States of America
Legislative bodies--Confederate States of America
Belgium--Foreign relations--Confederate States of America
Confederate States of America--Foreign relations--Belgium
Confederate States of America--Foreign relations--France
Confederate States of America--Foreign relations--Great Britain
Confederate States of America--Foreign relations--Mexico
Confederate States of America--Armed forces
Confederate States of America--Officials and employees
Confederate States of America--Politics and government
France--Foreign relations--Confederate States of America
Great Britain--Foreign relations--Confederate States of America
Mexico--Foreign relations--Confederate States of America
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865

Administrative Information

Diplomatic and consular service, Confederate

Provenance:

The records of the Confederate States of America, also known as the Pickett Papers, were purchased by the United States in 1872 from John T. Pickett, former diplomatic agent of the Confederacy, and transferred by the Department of the Treasury to the Library of Congress in 1906 and 1910. Other items received by gift, purchase, or transfer also comprise part of the collection, including approximately one hundred additions between 1898 and 1956. The James Wolcott Wadsworth Collection was given to the Library as an addition to the records by James W. Wadsworth in 1926. The Department of the Treasury also transferred a large group of Confederate treasury records in 1920, and in 1921, much of the material processed as part of the War Department series was received from descendants of Confederate officers.

Processing History:

The records of the Confederate States of America were arranged, described, and microfilmed in 1967. The finding aid describing the collection was revised in 2001 to include additions to the collection. State Department records are described in *The Handbook of Manuscripts in the Library of Congress* (1918), pp. 70-75, and published in part in the *Official Records of Union and Confederate Navies in the War of the Rebellion*, Series II, Volume 3. The *Librarians Annual Reports* note the arrival of other material.

Transfers:

Some photographs, lithographs, and illustrative material have been transferred to the Library's Prints and Photographs Division where they are identified as part of these papers.

Copyright Status:

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of the Confederate States of America in these records and in other collections in the custody of the Library of Congress is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Microfilm:

A microfilm edition of part of these papers is available on seventy-one reels. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan.

Preferred Citation:

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container or reel number, Records of the Confederate States of America, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The records of the Confederate States of America span the years 1854-1889, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1861-1865. The collection relates to the formation of the government of the Confederacy and the conduct of its internal, external, and military affairs.

With few exceptions, the collection consists of official or semiofficial records generated by departments of the Confederate government and their agents. The departments of <u>state</u>, <u>justice</u>, <u>treasury</u>, <u>navy</u>, and <u>war</u> and the <u>post office</u> are represented, along with material relating to the <u>president</u>, the congress, and the <u>constitution</u>.

Most numerous are the records of the <u>Department of State</u> containing correspondence exchanged for most of the period between Secretary of State Judah P. Benjamin and departmental agents and diplomats abroad, particularly those stationed in Belgium, France, Great Britain, and Mexico. The records are supplemented by the inclusion of the <u>James Wolcott Wadsworth Collection</u> of similar material. Other records of the department relate to administrative and <u>financial affairs</u>, <u>passports</u>, <u>pardons</u>, <u>appointments to office</u>, <u>applications for office</u>, and maritime and domestic affairs of the Confederacy. As noted below, the records of the Department of State were once known as the "Pickett Papers."

The records of the <u>treasury</u> and <u>post office</u> departments are chiefly concerned with subordinate offices. The records of the <u>War Department</u> contain early correspondence of the secretary of war, general orders, strength returns, muster rolls and quartermaster records. <u>Justice Department</u> material consists of records of Confederate courts in Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi.

Proclamations, messages, and other papers of <u>President Jefferson Davis</u>, acts and resolutions of the <u>Confederate congress</u>, material relating to the constitution and secession, and miscellaneous items complete the collection. A <u>Miscellany</u> series includes documents relating to the state governments of Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia, printed and published material covering the statues and proclamations of the Confederate government, and blank official forms.

Prior to the evacuation of Richmond, Virginia, by the Confederate government, Judah P. Benjamin ordered the records packed in wooden cases for removal from the capital and placed them in the custody of the chief clerk of the department, William J. Bromwell. Bromwell hid the records of in a barn near Charlotte, North Carolina. Following a quarrel with Benjamin, Bromwell disclosed the location of the records to John T. Pickett, who had been a Confederate agent in Mexico and whose personal papers are also in the Library of Congress. Pickett sold the records to the United States in 1872 for \$75,000. Among the nearly one hundred additions was the transfer in 1920 of a group of Confederate treasury records from the United States Treasury Department. In 1921, much material now in the War Department series was received from descendants of Confederate officers. The series entitled Additions consists of several miscellaneous groups of records formerly organized under separate headings. The material consists chiefly of Confederate financial bonds.

Correspondence of many of the leading officials of the Confederate States appears in the records. In addition to the dominant figure, Secretary of State Judah P. Benjamin, other correspondents include Bolling Baker, G. T. Beauregard, Clement C. Clay, Lewis Conger, Jefferson Davis, Edwin DeLeon, Anthony J. Guirot, Charles J. Helm, Lewis Heyliger, Henry Hotze, L. Q. C. Lamar, A. Dudley Mann, James M. Mason, Christopher G. Memminger, John T. Pickett, John A. Quintero, John H. Reagan, Raphael Semmes, John Slidell, Alexander Hamilton Stephens, Jacob Thompson, William H. Trescott, LeRoy P. Walker, and William Lowndes Yancey.

Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in eleven series:

- Department of State, 1859-1868, n.d.
- Executive and Legislative Branches of the Confederacy, 1861-1865
- Confederate Constitutional Documents, 1861-1883
- Department of Justice, 1860-1867
- Department of the Treasury, 1860-1865
- Post Office Department, 1861-1865
- War Department, 1861-1865, n.d.
- Navy Department, 1861-1865
- Miscellany, 1858-1872, n.d.
- Additions, 1854-1889, n.d.
- Oversize, 1862-1863, n.d.

Description of Series

Container BOX 1-65 REEL 1-35	Series Department of State, 1859-1868, n.d.	
BOX 1-7 REEL 1-7	Diplomatic Missions, 1861-1868, n.d.	
REEL 1-/	Correspondence, instructions, dispatches, and related material exchanged between the Department of State and its representatives to other nations. Arranged by locality and chronologically therein. Listings of the principal commissioners are given where applicable.	
BOX 7-17 REEL 7-10	Consular and Other Missions, 1861-1865, n.d.	
	Correspondence, instructions, dispatches, and related material exchanged between the Department of State and Confederate officials and agents in foreign countries. Arranged by locality and chronologically therein. Listings of the principal officials and agents are given where applicable.	
BOX 18 REEL 11	Foreign Consulates, 1861-1864, n.d.	
	Correspondence and other related material with diplomatic representatives of foreign nations. Arranged alphabetically by name of country and chronologically therein.	
BOX 19-25 REEL 12-15	Records, 1861-1865	
	Correspondence, memoranda, letters of marque, claims for damage, and other related material concerning marine, administrative, and domestic activities. Arranged by subject and chronologically therein.	
BOX 25-27 REEL 15-16	Property Files, 1862-1864, n.d.	
	Correspondence, estimates, memoranda, and indexes relating to the loss and destruction of property in the Confederacy. Arranged by subject.	
BOX 28 REEL 16	Diary of Judah P. Benjamin, 1861-1864	
KEEE TO	A daily account of events from 22 Feb. 1862-12 Dec. 1864.	
BOX 29-34 REEL 17-19	Financial Records, 1861-1865	
	Correspondence, accounts, receipts, records, memoranda, appropriations, estimates, checks, warrants, and ledgers relating to the expenses of the State Department and its agents. Arranged by subject and chronologically therein.	
BOX 35-38 REEL 20-21	Pardons and Passports, 1861-1865	
	Records of passports and pardons issued, applications for passports, lists, passports granted, and a record book.	

	Arranged by subject and chronologically therein.	
BOX 39-40 REEL 21	Presidential Proclamation File, 1861-1865, n.d.	
	Drafts, manuscript copies, and printed copies of proclamations and messages of Jefferson Davis and other leaders of the Confederacy.	
	Arranged by subject.	
BOX 41-47 REEL 22-25	Public Office File, 1861-1865, n.d.	
	Applications for office, records of commissions and appointments issued, confirmations of appointments, acting appointments, oaths of office, letters of resignation, and related correspondence.	
	Arranged by subject and chronologically therein.	
BOX 48-49 REEL 26	Miscellany, 1859-1864	
	An address book, orders, resolutions, copyrights, prisoner exchange records, memoranda, printed forms, and miscellaneous material relating to Fort Sumter, S.C., foreign loans, Indian affairs, and Lord John Russell.	
	Arranged by subject.	
BOX 50-52 REEL 27-28	Newspaper Clippings, 1860-1864	
	Clippings from Confederate, Union, and foreign newspapers.	
	Arranged, where possible, by country and by newspaper therein.	
BOX 53-65 REEL 29-35	James Wolcott Wadsworth Collection, 1861-1865	
	Correspondence of Department of State officials with commissioners, other officials, and agents, generally in foreign countries. This series largely duplicates material in the	
	Diplomatic Missions and the Consular and Other Missions subseries. Arranged by locality and chronologically therein.	
BOX 66-73 REEL 35-36	Executive and Legislative Branches of the Confederacy, 1861-1865	
	Correspondence, messages, proclamations by Jefferson Davis, lists, memoranda, and acts and resolutions of the Confederate congress.	
7.07.74.76	Arranged by subject and chronologically therein.	
BOX 74-76 REEL 36-38	Confederate Constitutional Documents, 1861-1883	
	Constitutions of the Confederacy, articles of secession of the Confederate states, and related material.	
nov 77 01	Arranged by subject.	
BOX 77-81 REEL 38	Department of Justice, 1860-1867	
	Court costs, minute books, docket books, garnishment petitions, rules, and related material for the Confederate States of America and the United States and District courts in Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi.	
	Arranged by subject.	

Container	Contents
-	
BOX 82-93 REEL 39-49	Department of the Treasury, 1860-1865
	Correspondence to and from various officials of the Treasury Department, estimates of funds needed, a letterbook, circulars of the United States Treasury Department, and related material.
	Arranged by subject and chronologically therein.
BOX 94-108	Post Office Department, 1861-1865
REEL 49-62	
	Appointment Bureau letterbooks, lists, account books, contracts and schedules, a report of the postmaster general, and related material.
	Arranged by subject and chronologically therein.
BOX 109-118 REEL 63-68	War Department, 1861-1865, n.d.
	Correspondence, reports, orders, circulars, a letterbook, regimental records, quartermaster records, general orders, captured Union dispatches, field returns, certificates, lists, and related material.
nov 110 120	Arranged by subject.
BOX 119-120 REEL 69-70	Navy Department, 1861-1865
	Accounts, circulars, correspondence, reports, logbooks, certificates, and related material.
	Arranged by subject.
BOX 121-123	Miscellany, 1858-1872, n.d.
REEL 70	
	Memoranda, letters, bills, lists, receipts, published material, and printed forms relating to the provenance and description of the collection, several states (Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia) within the Confederacy, and other facets of the history of the Confederate States of America.
nor 104	Arranged by subject and chronologically therein.
BOX 124	Additions, 1854-1889, n.d.
	Autographs, correspondence, register of surgeons, financial bonds, and other material. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and chronologically therein. The register of surgeons is available only on microfilm (one reel). Shelf no. 10,164.
BOX OV 1-OV 2 not filmed	Oversize, 1862-1863, n.d.
	Blank forms and financial bonds.
	Arranged and described according to the series, folders, and containers from which the items were removed.

Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 13,744

Container	Contents
BOX 1-65 REEL 1-35	Department of State, 1859-1868, n.d.
BOX 1-7 REEL 1-7	Diplomatic Missions, 1861-1868, n.d.
	Correspondence, instructions, dispatches, and related material exchanged between the Department of State and its representatives to other nations. Arranged by locality and chronologically therein. Listings of the principal commissioners are given where applicable.
BOX 1 REEL 1	Washington, 1861
	Forsyth, John
	Pickett, John T.
	Virginia, Alexander Hamilton Stephens, 1861
	Great Britain
	1861-1863
	Fearn, Walker
	Huger, Benjamin
	MacFarland, J. E.
	Mann, A. Dudley
	Mason, James M.
	Rost, Pierre A.
	Slidell, John
	Trescott, William H.
	Yancey, William Lowndes
BOX 2 REEL 2	1861-1864

	Mason, James M.
	Spence, James
BOX 3 REEL 3	France, 1861-1864
	Thouvenel, M.
	Slidell, John
BOX 4 REEL 4	Belgium, 1861-1864
	Davis, Jefferson
	Mann, A. Dudley
	Pius IX, Pope
	Spain, Pierre A. Rost, 1861-1864
	Papal States, P. N. Lynch, 1864
	Mexico
	1861-1862, John T. Pickett
BOX 5 REEL 5-6	1861-1868, John T. Pickett
	1861-1862, John T. Pickett
BOX 7 REEL 7	1862-1865
	Cripps, John S.
	Preston, William
	Ricken, Charles
	Russia, Lucius Q. C. Lamar, 1863
BOX 7-17 REEL 7-10	Consular and Other Missions, 1861-1865, n.d.
	Correspondence, instructions, dispatches, and related material exchanged between the Department of State and Confederate officials and agents in foreign countries. Arranged by locality and chronologically therein. Listings of the principal officials and agents are given where applicable.

Locality **BOX** 7 REEL 7 Canada, 1864 Clay, Clement C. Dawson, George Holcombe, James P. Lee, E. G. Thompson, Jacob Cork, Ireland, Robert Dowling, 1863-1864 Fort Brown, Tex., 1862 Havana, Cuba, 1861-1864 Helm, Charles J. Magruder, J. B. Pickett, John T. Ireland, 1863-1864, n.d. Bannon, John Capstan, James L. Hotze, Henry Lalor, James F. Italy, Dudley A. Mann, 1861-1862 London, England, Henry Hotze, 1862-1864 **BOX** 8 Matamoras, Mexico, 1862-1864 REEL 8

Avengo, Bernard

Fitzpatrick, Richard

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Heyliger, Lewis
                                 Slidell, John
                              Nassau and New Providence, Lewis Heyleiger, 1862-1864
                              New Leon and Coahuila, Mexico, John A. Quintero, 1861-1864, n.d.
BOX 9
                              Paris, France, 1862-1864
REEL 9
                                 DeLeon, Edwin
                                McRae, Colin
                              St. George's, Bermuda, Norman J. Walker, 1863-1864
                              Vera Cruz, Mexico, Emile LaSere, 1864
                              Miscellaneous translations, John Slidell, n.d.
                            Keys to the Confederate ciphers, n.d.
                            Special personal instructions to all agents, n.d.
BOX 10
                            Special commissions issued to agents, 1861-1865
REEL 10
BOX 11
                            Instructions and dispatches, 1862-1865
REEL 10
                              Agents
                                 Avengo, Bernard
                                DeLeon, Edwin
                                Dowling, Robert
                                 Fitzpatrick, Richard
                                 Helm, Charles J.
                                Hotze, Henry
                                LaSere, Emile
                                 Quintero, John A.
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	Walker, Norman J.
BOX 12 REEL 10	Cuba, 1861-1862
	Great Britain, 1861-1862
	France, 1861-1862
	Mexico, 1861-1862
BOX 13 REEL 10	Russia, Lucius Q. C. Lamar, 1862-1864
BOX 14 REEL 10	Great Britain, 1862-1864
	Holcombe, James P.
	Mason, James M.
BOX 15 REEL 10	France, 1862-1864
	Slidell, John
BOX 16 REEL 10	Belgium, A. Dudley Mann, 1862-1864
BOX 17 REEL 10	Mexico, John A. Quintero, 1862-1864
	Papal States, P. N. Lynch, 1862-1864
	Spain, Pierre A. Rost, 1862-1864
BOX 18 REEL 11	Foreign Consulates, 1861-1864, n.d.
	Correspondence and other related material with diplomatic representatives of foreign nations. Arranged alphabetically by name of country and chronologically therein.
BOX 18 REEL 11	Austria, 1862-1864
	Belgium, 1862-1864
	Bremen, 1862
	France, 1861-1864

	La Question Americaine	
Translations, Alfred Paul		
	Great Britain, 1861-1864, n.d.	
	Italy, 1861-1864	
	Netherlands, 1863	
	Prussia, 1864	
	Spain, 1861-1864	
	Miscellany	
	Raven, Ernst	
	Torrier, J.	
BOX 19-25 REEL 12-15	Records, 1861-1865	
NEED 12 13	Correspondence, memoranda, letters of marque, claims for damage, and other related material concerning marine, administrative, and domestic activities. Arranged by subject and chronologically therein.	
BOX 19 REEL 12	Maritime, 1861-1863	
BOX 20 REEL 13	Administrative, 1861-1865	
	Domestic, 1861-1865	
BOX 21 REEL 13	Index to letters received, 1864	
BOX 22 REEL 13	Letters sent	
	1861-1864	
BOX 23 REEL 13	1864-1865	
BOX 24 REEL 14	Letters received	
	1861-1863	
вох 25	1863-1865	

Container	Contents
REEL 15	
BOX 25-27 REEL 15-16	Property Files, 1862-1864, n.d.
	Correspondence, estimates, memoranda, and indexes relating to the loss and destruction of property in the Confederacy. Arranged by subject.
BOX 25 REEL 15	Slaves, 1862-1864
	Railroads, n.d.
BOX 26 REEL 16	Index to lists of property stolen or destroyed
	Undated
BOX 27 REEL 16	Undated
BOX 28 REEL 16	Diary of Judah P. Benjamin, 1861-1864
	A daily account of events from 22 Feb. 1862-12 Dec. 1864.
BOX 29-34 REEL 17-19	Financial Records, 1861-1865
	Correspondence, accounts, receipts, records, memoranda, appropriations, estimates, checks, warrants, and ledgers relating to the expenses of the State Department and its agents. Arranged by subject and chronologically therein.
BOX 29 REEL 17-18	Miscellany, 1861-1864
BOX 30 REEL 19	Disbursing clerk's cash books, 1864-1865
BOX 31 REEL 19	Diplomatic account book, 1861-1865
BOX 32 REEL 19	Foreign service ledger, 1861-1865
BOX 33 REEL 19	Appropriation expense record book, 1861-1865
BOX 34 REEL 19	Departmental requests to the Treasury, 1861-1865

Container	Contents	
BOX 35-38 REEL 20-21	Pardons and Passports, 1861-1865	
1022	Records of passports and pardons issued, applications for passports, lists, passports granted, and a record book.	
	Arranged by subject and chronologically therein.	
BOX 35 REEL 20	Passport applications, 1861-1865	
	Passport lists, n.d.	
	Blank passports	
BOX 36 REEL 21	Passports issued with a descriptive list	
	1863-1864	
BOX 37 REEL 21	1864-1865	
BOX 38 REEL 21	Pardon record book, 1862-1864	
BOX 39-40 REEL 21	Presidential Proclamation File, 1861-1865, n.d.	
REEL 21	Drafts, manuscript copies, and printed copies of proclamations and messages of Jefferson Davis and other leaders of the Confederacy. Arranged by subject.	
BOX 39 REEL 21	Presidential proclamations, 1861-1865	
BOX 40 REEL 21	Manuscripts of proclamations, 1861-1864	
	Printed messages of Jefferson Davis, 1862-1865	
	Printed proclamations, 1861	
	Proclamation of Queen Victoria, 1861	
BOX 41-47 REEL 22-25	Public Office File, 1861-1865, n.d.	
	Applications for office, records of commissions and appointments issued, confirmations of appointments, acting appointments, oaths of office, letters of resignation, and related correspondence. Arranged by subject and chronologically therein.	

Department of State, 1859-1868, n.d.

Container	Contents	
BOX 41 REEL 22	Commissions and appointments	
	1861-1862	
BOX 42 REEL 22	1862-1864	
BOX 43 REEL 22	Index to commissions and appointments, n.d.	
BOX 44 REEL 22	Commissions and appointments, 1864-1865	
BOX 45 REEL 22	Record book of acting appointments, 1862-1864	
BOX 46 REEL 23-24	List of applications for appointments, n.d.	
	Applications for appointments, 1861-1865	
	Senate confirmation of appointments, 1861-1864	
BOX 47 REEL 25	Correspondence relating to appointments, 1861-1865	
	Oaths of office, 1861-1865	
	Letters of resignation, 1861-1864	
BOX 48-49 REEL 26	Miscellany, 1859-1864	
	An address book, orders, resolutions, copyrights, prisoner exchange records, memoranda, printed forms, and miscellaneous material relating to Fort Sumter, S.C., foreign loans, Indian affairs, and Lord John Russell. Arranged by subject.	
BOX 48 REEL 26	General	
	Address of the London Peace Society, London, England, to the people of the United States	
	Correspondence, 1859-1864	
	Books ordered by the State Department	
	Congressonal resolutions	
	Copyright records	
	Copyright records	

Evacuation of Fort Sumter, S.C.

Anderson, Robert

Beauregard, G. T.

Campbell, John A.

Lincoln, Abraham

Exchange of prisoners

Foreign loans

Erlanger & Co.

Slidell, John

Indian affairs

Miscellaneous correspondents

Russell, John Russell, Earl (copies)

Secretary of state

Memoranda, 1863-1864

Cast-iron guns

Economic matters in Europe

Cost of armaments in France

Notes relating to printed forms

BOX 49 Not filmed Printed forms, 1861-1865

BOX 50-52

Newspaper Clippings, 1860-1864

REEL 27-28

Clippings from Confederate, Union, and foreign newspapers. Arranged, where possible, by country and by newspaper therein.

BOX 50 REEL 27 Southern U.S.

Northern U. S.

tainor	

Contents

	Mexico
BOX 51 REEL 28	France
BOX 52 REEL 28	Great Britain
BOX 53-65 REEL 29-35	James Wolcott Wadsworth Collection, 1861-1865
	Correspondence of Department of State officials with commissioners, other officials, and agents, generally in foreign countries. This series largely duplicates material in the Diplomatic Missions and the Consular and Other Missions subseries. Arranged by locality and chronologically therein.
BOX 53 REEL 29	Correspondence with foreign agents
	London, England
	1861-1864, James M. Mason
BOX 54 REEL 29	1862-1864, Henry Hotze
BOX 55A REEL 30	Paris, France, John Slidell
	1862-1863
BOX 55B REEL 30	1863-1864
BOX 56 REEL 31	1862-1864
BOX 57 REEL 31	Belgium, 1862-1864, Dudley A. Mann
BOX 58 REEL 32	Mexico
	1861-1864, John A. Quintero
BOX 59 REEL 32	1861-1865
	Avengo, Bernard
	Fitzpatrick, Richard

LaSere, Emile Pickett, John T. Preston, William Rieken, Charles **BOX** 60 Miscellaneous agents, 1861-1864 **REEL** 33 Avengo, Bernard DeLeon, Edwin Dowling, Robert Fitzpatrick, Richard Helm, Charles J. Hotze, Henry Lynch, P. N. Mason, James M. Preston, William Quintero, John A. Rost, Pierre A. Walker, Norman J. **BOX** 61 Foreign countries, 1861-1864 **REEL** 33 Belgium Cuba France Great Britain Ireland Russia

	Spain
BOX 62 REEL 34	Canada
	Cuba
	Nassau
BOX 63 REEL 34	Extracts from letterbooks, 1861-1865
	Benjamin, Judah P.
	Clay, Clement C.
	Dawson, George
	Helm, Charles J.
	Heyliger, Lewis
	Holcombe, James P.
	Maury, Dabney
	Maxwell, A. E.
	Thompson, Jacob
BOX 64 REEL 35	Miscellany, 1861
	Washington commissions
	Fort Sumter, S.C., negotiations
BOX 65 REEL 35	Department of the Navy, 1861-1863
	Mallory, Stephen R.
	Semmes, Raphael
BOX 66-73 REEL 35-36	Executive and Legislative Branches of the Confederacy, 1861-1865
	Correspondence, messages, proclamations by Jefferson Davis, lists, memoranda, and acts and resolutions of the Confederate congress. Arranged by subject and chronologically therein.

Executive and Legislative Branches of the Confederacy, 1861-1865

Container	Contents
BOX 66 REEL 35	Miscellany, 1861-1865
	Annual message
	Correspondence
	Lists
	Memoranda
	Notices
	Proclamations
	Resolutions
	Statutes at Large
	Transcripts
BOX 67 REEL 35	Acts and Resolutions of Congress
	1861
BOX 68 REEL 35	1861-1862
BOX 69 REEL 35	1862
BOX 70 REEL 36	1862
BOX 71 REEL 36	1863
BOX 72 REEL 36	1863-1864
BOX 73 REEL 36	1864
BOX 74-76 REEL 36-38	Confederate Constitutional Documents, 1861-1883
	Constitutions of the Confederacy, articles of secession of the Confederate states, and related material. Arranged by subject.
вох 74	Confederate constitution, facsimile, printed in New York, 1883
DUA /T	Confederate Constitution, facsimile, printed in New Tork, 1005

Confederate Constitutional Documents, 1861-1883

Container	Contents
REEL 36	
BOX 75 REEL 37	Fragments and drafts of constitution, 1861
	Printed copies of the constitution with amendments, 1861
	Amended constitution with holograph corrections, 1861
	Copies of the provisional and permanent constitution, 1861
	Ordinances of secession and related papers from individual Confederate states, 1861
BOX 76 REEL 38	Constitutions and other documents of the Confederate States, printed, 1861
BOX 77-81 REEL 38	Department of Justice, 1860-1867
REEL 30	Court costs, minute books, docket books, garnishment petitions, rules, and related material for the Confederate States of America and the United States and District courts in Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi. Arranged by subject.
BOX 77 REEL 38	Court costs, 1863-1867
	Confederate States District Court of Alabama, 1863
	United States District Court of Alabama, 1865-1867
BOX 78 REEL 38	Confederate States Court for the Northern District of Alabama, 1863
BOX 79 REEL 38	Confederate States District Court of the Northern Division of Mississippi, records and minute book, 1861-1865
BOX 80 REEL 38	Trial docket
	Confederate States District Court of Alabama, 1861-1863
	United States District Court of Alabama, 1860
BOX 81 REEL 38	Records of the Confederate States District Court of Louisiana, 1861-1862

	Garnishment petitions and rules, 1861-1862
BOX 82-93 REEL 39-49	Department of the Treasury, 1860-1865
Kada oy iy	Correspondence to and from various officials of the Treasury Department, estimates of funds needed, a letterbook, circulars of the United States Treasury Department, and related material. Arranged by subject and chronologically therein.
BOX 82 REEL 39	Correspondence, 1860-1864
	To A. J. Guirot, 1860-1864
BOX 83 REEL 40-41	To Bolling Baker, 1861-1862
	To Lewis Conger, 1861-1862
BOX 84 REEL 42	From F. H. Hatch
	1861-1862
вох 85	1861-1862
BOX 86 REEL 43	1861-1862
BOX 87 REEL 44	To F. H. Hatch, 1861
	Baker, Bolling
	Cabinet members
	Clitherall, Alexander B.
	Cruger, Lewis
	Elmore, E. C.
	Light House Bureau
	Memminger, C. G.
BOX 88 REEL 45	Miscellany (1 folder) (10 folders)

	To John Boston
	1861
BOX 89 REEL 46-47	1862
BOX 90 REEL 48	Collectors' estimates of funds needed for customhouses and lighthouses, 1861
BOX 91 REEL 49	Register's Office, letterbook, 1863-1864
	Jones, C. F.
	Tyler, Robert
BOX 92 REEL 49	United States Treasury Department, circulars, 1861-1863
BOX 93 REEL 49	Miscellany, 1861-1865
	Correspondence
	Clark, M. H.
	Hunter, R. M. T.
	Memminger, C. G.
	Tyler, Robert
	Government expenditure list
	An impression of the seal of the Treasury
	Reports of the secretary
	Tax and bond receipts
BOX 94-108 REEL 49-62	Post Office Department, 1861-1865
	Appointment Bureau letterbooks, lists, account books, contracts and schedules, a report of the postmaster general, and related material.Arranged by subject and chronologically therein.
BOX 94 REEL 49	Appointment Bureau letterbooks

Post Office Department, 1861-1865

Container	Contents
	1861-1862
BOX 95 REEL 50	1862-1863
BOX 96 REEL 51	1863
BOX 97 REEL 51	1863-1865
BOX 98 REEL 52	Official letterbooks
	1861-1862
BOX 99 REEL 52	1861-1863
BOX 100 REEL 53	Appointment Bureau lists: Alabama, Arkansas, and Texas, 1861-1864
BOX 101 REEL 53	(1 vol.) (1 vol.)
BOX 102 REEL 53	Register of current accounts in post office in Arkansas, Florida, Tennessee, and Texas, 1862
BOX 103 REEL 54	Contracts and schedules, 1861-1863
	Mississippi
	Nos. 601-7671
BOX 104 REEL 55	Nos. 7405-7488
BOX 105 REEL 56	Nos. 7490-7579
BOX 106 REEL 57-58	Nos. 7580-7599
	Virginia
	Nos. 4170-4199
BOX 107 REEL 59-60	Nos. 4201-4247

Post Office Department, 1861-1865

Container	Contents
BOX 108 REEL 61-62	Nos. 291-4319
	Report of the postmaster general, 1861-1862
BOX 109-118 REEL 63-68	War Department, 1861-1865, n.d.
	Correspondence, reports, orders, circulars, a letterbook, regimental records, quartermaster records, general orders, captured Union dispatches, field returns, certificates, lists, and related material.
	Arranged by subject.
BOX 109 REEL 63	Official correspondence, L. P. Walker, 1861
BOX 110 REEL 63	List of official communications, 1864-1865
BOX 111 REEL 64	Miscellany, 1861-1865
	Correspondence
	Letterbooks
	Bee, Hamilton P.
	Lopez, Albino
	Report of the secretary
	Transcripts from the papers of Jubal A. Early
BOX 112 REEL 64	Circulars and regulations
	General Orders
	Headquarters
	Confederate States of America, Army
	Army of Northern Virginia
	Department of Northern Virginia
	Army of the Potomac
	Department of Virginia and North Carolina

	Army of Tennessee
	Department of the Trans-Mississippi
	Miscellany
	District of Arkansas, James Elliott
	Alabama Brigade
	Captured federal dispatches
BOX 113 REEL 65	Regimental papers, muster and pay rolls, 1861-1865, n.d.
	Arkansas
	Georgia
	Louisiana
	Mississippi
BOX 114	Virginia (9 folders) (25 folders)
REEL 65 BOX 115 REEL 66	Mississippi
	Record book, 1863-1865
BOX 116 REEL 66	Quartermaster records, 1863-1864
	Articles sold, lost, or destroyed
	Disbursements
	Receipts
	Requisitions for forage
	Reports of articles purchased
	Reports of articles received from officers
	Special requisitions

	Quarterly returns, Lake, M.
BOX 117 REEL 67	Miscellany
	Barbour, A. M.
	Lake, M.
	Mallory, C. R.
	Thompson, George G.
	Railroad tickets
	Tax Receipts
BOX 118 REEL 68	Certificates
	Furlough
	Discharge
	Death
	Discharge book
	Field returns
	Oaths of officers
	Officer reports
	Ordnance reports
	Requisition lists
	Safe conduct passes
	Wounded lists
BOX 119-120 REEL 69-70	Navy Department, 1861-1865
REEL 05-70	Accounts, circulars, correspondence, reports, logbooks, certificates, and related material. Arranged by subject.
BOX 119 REEL 69	Accounts

Fort Sumter, 1863

Fort Tennesse, 1863

Missouri, 1863

Circulars, 1861

Miscellaneous correspondence and records, 1861-1864

Discharge certificates, 1864

Pay and receipt rates, 1861

Transcribed statements, 1884

BOX 120 REEL 69 Correspondence, Raphael Semmes, 1882

Reports, 1862

Register, 1862

Logs of vessels in Bermuda and Nassau, 1861-1865

BOX 121-123 REEL 70 Miscellany, 1858-1872, n.d.

Memoranda, letters, bills, lists, receipts, published material, and printed forms relating to the provenance and description of the collection, several states (Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia) within the Confederacy, and other facets of the history of the Confederate States of America.

Arranged by subject and chronologically therein.

BOX 121 REEL 70 Lists of the records

Report of Thomas O. Selfridge on the purchase of the Pickett Papers, 1872

South Carolina, ordnance correspondence, 1860-1861

North Carolina, executive correspondence, 1859-1864

Georgia, executive correspondence, 1861-1864

Tennessee, executive correspondence, 1858-1861

Virginia, executive correspondence, 1861

Table of distances, n.d.

Comuner	Contents
	Seal of the Confederacy
	Crop subscriptions, 1861
	Inaugural program, n.d.
	Alabama's ordnance of secession, 1861
	List of the officers of the Confederacy, n.d.
BOX 122 not filmed	Published statutes, orders, proclamations
вох 123	Blank forms <u>See also Oversize</u>
вох 124	Additions, 1854-1889, n.d.
	Autographs, correspondence, register of surgeons, financial bonds, and other material. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and chronologically therein. The register of surgeons is available only on microfilm (one reel). Shelf no. 10,164.
вох 124	Autographs, 1886-1889, n.d.
	Bonds, 1854-1864, n.d. <u>See also Oversize</u> (3 folders)
	Miscellany, 1862-1865, n.d.
	Register of surgeons, Army of Tennessee, 1861-1865 Available only on microfilm. Shelf no. 10,164
BOX OV 1-OV 2 not filmed	Oversize, 1862-1863, n.d.
not mineu	Blank forms and financial bonds.
	Arranged and described according to the series, folders, and containers from which the items were removed.
BOX OV 1	Miscellany
	Blank forms (Container 123)
BOX OV 2	Additions

Bonds, 1862-1863 (Container 124)